

Human Rights Commission Meeting
Thursday, Sept. 18, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Present: Commissioners Ingrid Askew, Gregory Bascomb, Lois Raj, Sid Ferreira, Kathleen Anderson, Liam Brodigan; Human Rights liaison and Human Resources Director Deb Radway. Guest attendees; Jerry Levinsky and Raphael Lopez-Sanchez.

Absent: Carol Ross

Meeting called to order at 6:35. Approved minutes from Aug. 27, 2014.

Oct. 16, 2014 meeting agreed to as our Annual meeting to elect officers; Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer. These three will comprise the "Executive Committee". Nominees recommended include Lois for Treasurer, Sid for Vice-Chair, Greg for Chair. Chair Read General Guidelines 4.3 from Appointed Committee Handbook.

Discussed the following as per Agenda

1. Roles & Responsibilities of Amherst H.R. Commission when supporting, co-sponsoring or supporting events in conjunction with other area groups. Ingrid and Sid will work on these guidelines.
2. "Community Conversation action is on target to take place during the 1st week in November. Final plan will be presented at the October meeting.
3. Frederick Douglass reading 2015. Ingrid expressed the importance of the HRC taking the lead on this every year. This years reading was sponsored by numerous other area groups and received financial support from the Mass. Cultural Council grant. Linda Zeigbein helped write the grand. Kathleen & Sid will work on this for 2015. Kathleen will search her own email for photos from the 2014 reading.
4. Dec. 10th reading of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Discussion about changing start time ended with agreement to keep the 6:00 time. Commissioners discussed adding a hot chocolate set up for readers/attendees. Guest Raphael Lopez-Sanchez suggested extending invitation to Stavros, ARHS and ARMS students. Lois agreed to communicate with Stavros; Kathleen & Liam will communicate with the schools
5. Guest Raphael suggested establishing a mentoring and advisory committee to support the reading of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He suggested Frank Gatti and Steve Jefferson as possible community members along with Liam and Greg.
6. Greg raised the suggestion that our H.R. committee create a subcommittee to work on other fundraising events. Also that this small committee work on grant writing to People's Bank and TD Bank.
7. Greg suggested an activity to work on changing Amherst culture to make it more caring and participatory through community service actions. An initial thought to develop an

online/call in resource directory to function similarly to 911. He will bring greater details to our Oct. meeting.

No other agenda items. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm
Kathleen Anderson, notetaker